

Statement on International Education Week 2011
by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
November 14-18, 2011

I am pleased to announce the 12th annual International Education Week starting on November 14. This year's theme is *International Education: Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally*.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Education and State. It celebrates the benefits of understanding the world around us so we can better communicate and collaborate with others from different cultures. It is an ideal opportunity to inspire students to broaden their horizons through global learning, foreign languages and international exchange.

President Obama and I are passionate about providing all of our children with an education that will enable them to succeed in a globally competitive economy where knowledge and innovation are more important than ever. And, with the world's economies and societies becoming more and more interdependent, it is almost impossible to distinguish between domestic and international issues.

Therefore, we must work together to give all of our students an outstanding education, which includes learning about our global partners – their cultures, histories, languages, values, and viewpoints. We must focus on integrating international perspectives into our classrooms. It is through education and exchange that we become better collaborators, competitors and compassionate neighbors in this global society.

There is no longer any doubt that local actions have international effects and consequences. International Education Week 2011 is a time to celebrate our connection with the world around us. I hope that you will join me this November in highlighting the importance of international education and exchange.